पिछले दशक में कोयला खानों का बंद होना

2276. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 11 फरवरी, 1997 के "जनसत्ता" में "बंद कोयला खानों में फंसा है करोड़ों का कोयला" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि देश में कई कोयला खानें गत दशक से बंद पड़ी हैं;

(ग) यदि हां, तो कुल कितनी कोयला खानें बंद पड़ी है और ये किन-किन राज्यों में स्थित हैं; और

(घ) क्या सरकार ने इन खानों में कोयले की मात्रा के संदर्भ में इसके भंडार का पता लगाया है यदि हां, तो कोयले की पता लगायी गई मात्रा का ब्यौरा क्या है?

कोयला मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कान्ति सिंह): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) और (ग) कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड से प्राप्त सूचना के अनुसार, पिछले दशक में, अर्थात् 1986 से 1997 के दौरान बंद की गई कोयले की खानों का राज्य-वार तथा कंपनी-वार अवस्थिति का ब्यौरा नीचे दर्शाया गया है:—

कंपनी का नाम	पश्चिम बंगाल	बिहार	मध्य प्रदेश	महाराष्ट्र
ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लि॰	23	5	—	—
भारत कोकिंग कोल लि॰	—	14	—	—
सेंट्रल कोलफील्ड्स लि॰	—	5	—	—
वेस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लि॰	—	—	10	9
साउथ ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लि॰	—	—	9	—
जोड़	23	24	19	9

(घ) कोल इंडिया लि॰ (को॰इं॰लि॰) से प्राप्त सूचना के अनुसार को॰ इं॰ लि॰ की कुल 75 बंद पड़ी खानों में से एक खान को ग्रहीत उपभोग के लिए एक गैर को॰ इं॰ लि॰ पार्टी द्वारा खनन हेतु खोल दिया गया है तथा को॰ इं॰ लि॰ द्वारा 4 भूमिगत खानों को ओपनकास्ट खान के रूप में परिवर्तित करके उनमें उत्खनन किया जा रहा है।

को॰ इं॰ लि॰ की बकाया बंद पड़ी 70 खानों को, बंद किए जाने के कारण नीचे दर्शाए गए हैं:—

बंद की गई खानों की संख्या	कारण
(i) 56	खनन योग्य भंडारों का परिसमापन तथा अलाभकारी स्ट्रीपिंग अनुपात
(ii) 12	सुरक्षा के दृष्टिकोण से
(iii) 1	कोयले का निम्न उठान
(iv) 1	कोयले का निम्न ग्रेड

उपर्युक्त क्रम सं॰ (ii), (iii) तथा (iv) में सूचीबद्ध की गई 14 बंद पड़ी खानों में छोड़े गए कोयले के शेष भण्डार 63.62 मि॰ टन तक की मात्रा में विद्यमान हैं।

Supply of Coal to power plants

2277. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Pioneer' dated 24th December, 1996 under the heading 'Dark days ahead as Government sets on coal projects';

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the reasons for not making coal available to the power plants which is the most crucial for power generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Demand for coal for meeting the requirement of industries and generation of power as proposed in the draft report of the Working Group on Coal and Lignite for the IXth Five Year Plan is 439.70 million tonnes excluding 11.20 m. tes. of washery middlings. As against this, total indigenous coal production has been projected at 346.56 million tonnes.

The Government have, subject to legislative changes, decided to offer new coal blocks, without the restriction on coal mining for captive consumption only, to the Indian Companies on the basis of competitive bidding. The successful bidder will be free to sell coal in the open market and will be allowed to charge any price negotiated between him and the consumers.

(c) The total despatches of coal which was 187.86 million tonnes in the year 1995-96 is expected to be 201.4 m.t. in 1996-97 an increase of 7.2% Commensurate with increase in coal despatches, the power generation performance of coal based thermal power stations during the period April, 1996 — February, 1997 has also increased by 6% over the corresponding period of last year.

Joint venture in mining projects

2278. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited has planned to invite foreign companies to form joint ventures in mining projects and mechanised mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating CIL's coal production capacity in million tonnes till date as compared to last year as well as borrowing from the Centre during this period; and

(c) the steps CIL have taken so far to reduce ash content percentage in coal, improvement in production and productivity of coal with latest technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per information received from Coal India Limited (CIL) the production of raw coal by CIL upto February, 1997 has been 222.42 (provisional) million tonnes as compared to 209.27 million tonnes during the same period of last year of 1995-96. The total production of raw coal of CIL during the entire period of 1995-96 was 237.28 million tonnes.

The company has not borrowed any amount from the Centre during the current financial year of 1996-97 till date. However, CIL's borrowings from the Centre during 1995-96 was Rs. 288.72 crores.

(c) In order to reduce ash content percentage in coal, modernisation of existing washeries of CIL and construction of new washeries by the Company both for coking and non-coking coal are in progress.

For increasing coal production and productivity the following steps have been taken by CIL:—

(i) Opening of new mines and increasing efficiency;

(ii) Improving equipment utilisation in opencast mines;

(iii) Phasing out uneconomic mines where potential for improvement does not exist;

(iv) Reorientation in investment programme with a higher thrust on short gestation and higher capital output ratio projects to open up gainful re-deployment oppertunities to redundant employees of the closed mines and also to unutilised/ under—utilised workforce engaged elsewhere;